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President: Mr. Barros Melet (Vice-President) ..... (Chile)

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In the absence of Mr. Shava (Zimbabwe), Mr. Barros Melet (Chile), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 5: High-level segment (*continued*) (E/2017/33, E/2017/64, E/2017/66, E/2017/69 and E/2017/72)

(a) Ministerial meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (*continued*) (A/71/976-E/2017/79)

General debate (*continued*)

1. **The President** invited the ministerial meeting to resume its general debate on the theme "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world".

2. **Mr. Kamal** (Bangladesh), Minister of Planning, speaking on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries, said that the theme of the high-level political forum on sustainable development was very timely, as the least developed countries were lagging behind in poverty eradication efforts, with more than 45 per cent of their population still living in extreme poverty. Current growth projections would leave nearly 35 per cent of their population in extreme poverty by 2030 if business as usual continued.

3. The Governments of least developed countries were adopting the necessary legislative, administrative and structural reforms to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, placing emphasis on financial inclusion for all, women's empowerment, high-quality education, capacity-building with regard to data, respect for human rights, and creating an enabling private sector environment. Nevertheless, huge financing gaps hindered the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals; his delegation therefore called for the significant mobilization of resources, including through enhanced international cooperation.

4. The least developed countries faced the direst consequences of climate change although they had contributed the least to global warming; they therefore needed continued international cooperation to support climate actions. It was concerning that official development assistance (ODA), foreign direct investment (FDI) and exports, which were all important means of implementation for the 2030 Agenda, had considerably declined in 2016. With a view to ensuring the full implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, all development partners must undertake concrete actions to reverse that declining trend and fulfil their commitment of providing 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their gross national income to least developed countries, as stipulated by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. International financial institutions were urged to provide special development assistance to least developed countries.

5. As technology and investment were key drivers of structural transformation in least developed countries, the Technology Bank must be operationalized and investment in least developed countries must be promoted. As some of the most vulnerable nations, least developed countries must continue to receive prioritized support from the United Nations to realize the 2030 Agenda as well as the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020. Although two years had elapsed since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, hardly any progress had been made. The high-level political forum must address the concerns of least developed countries in order for those countries to transform the global community and the face of sustainable development.

6. Every day, many people were dying as a result of crossing the seas to seek refuge in European countries; in 2016 alone, 5,000 individuals had died in that manner. If migrants could not be accommodated, they should not be allowed to board ships and face such dangers.

7. **Mr. Fakhoury** (Jordan), Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, said that a number of countries had demonstrated full ownership of the Sustainable Development Goals, sharing their impressive progress during the political forum. The main message stressed was that interconnectedness should pave the way for all future progress. Sectoral approaches no longer worked, as all Goals and countries were interconnected and faced the same challenges in terms of natural and man-made disasters, climate change, water shortages and epidemics. Success would depend on the recognition of a collective responsibility and the fostering of global partnerships.

8. Jordan was an example of how investing in human resources and development could translate into prosperity and welfare for all, as well as steady progress towards comprehensive sustainable development. For the past seven years, the country had set a model for the world by hosting Syrian refugees and providing them with all necessary public services,

despite the heavy financial, security, military and humanitarian costs consequently incurred.

9. The twenty-first century had seen a growth in prosperity, but poverty and youth unemployment still remained a problem, especially in low- and middle-income countries. In the Arab region, unprecedented instability, conflict and waves of refugees and displaced persons had unfortunately become the norm. The only way to overcome such challenges would be to work together towards global peace and security. The challenges faced by his country were immense, as the regional crises continued to threaten its hard-earned development gains and the influx of Syrian refugees had resulted in heightened needs, greater security and military pressures, increased budgetary costs, limited economic growth, higher public debt, declining exports and a loss of transit trade. Regional and global geopolitical and security developments were expected to continue to negatively affect investor confidence, tourism, exports, investment, and public finances, thereby threatening the country's path to sustainable development.

10. In spite of unprecedented challenges, Jordan was working to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals through comprehensive reforms aimed at maintaining resilience while increasing prosperity. The reforms focused on youth and women as key change agents for development. Political and economic reforms were proceeding confidently on parallel tracks.

11. Jordan faced great external challenges, owing to its geographic location within a volatile region. The development agenda was focused on shared prosperity and, in that regard, burden sharing could not continue to be disproportionate. Jordan was determined to safeguard its development achievements while remaining an inclusive, resilient safe haven and an oasis of stability.

12. **Mr. Barraza** (Chile), Minister of Social Development, said that the 2030 Agenda was the first universal and holistic global agenda and would thus require the altering of deeply rooted ideas and patterns of action. As the 2016 Human Development Report for Latin America and the Caribbean had noted, the Sustainable Development Goals were a concrete reminder that it was necessary to shift from focusing on economic growth and income, and examine instead the multiple dimensions that affected human development.

13. Given the equal importance of the three pillars of sustainable development established by the 2030 Agenda and the indivisible nature of the Goals, a new development paradigm and system of governance would be required. His Government believed that the fight against poverty was inseparable from the fight against inequality in its many forms. Moreover, combating inequality was not merely an ethical proposition, as scientific studies had shown that the economic growth of societies with greater levels of inequality was limited, stemming from the inability to tap into latent potential. Societies with higher levels of inequality also saw more social conflict, which discouraged foreign investment. Studies had also shown that economic growth was less effective at eradicating poverty in countries with high levels of inequality.

14. As the confluence of multiple forms of inequality and discrimination had been revealed to characterize intractable areas of poverty, it was as important to fight multidimensional poverty as it was to fight inequality. At the same time, and especially in middle-income countries, it was necessary to balance policies targeting the most vulnerable sectors with others that worked towards universalization in education, health and social security. Universalization was the guiding principle of all Chilean public policies, which aimed to ensure the social and democratic rule of law.

15. The holistic nature of the 2030 Agenda and the indivisibility of the Goals would require the effective intersectoral implementation of public policies; revaluating the role of planning and improving foresight capacities; and increasing national ownership of the 2030 Agenda by including the viewpoints of as many different actors as possible from the public and private sectors, as well as civil society and academia.

16. **Mr. Hernández Alcerro** (Honduras), Minister Coordinator General, said that the eradication of poverty and inequality and the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change were global challenges faced by the international community as a whole. The 2030 Agenda had redefined the way that development was understood. The Sustainable Development Goals must be aligned with national planning objectives and coordination mechanisms in order for international cooperation to be improved. The reform of the United Nations development system must focus more on people and less on processes, as the current architecture did not promote effective support to Member States. Reform was urgently needed to ensure that coordinated and coherent cooperation was aligned with national strategies.

17. The United Nations had repeatedly recognized that poverty was a multidimensional challenge that must be addressed accordingly. Both developing and developed nations must strive to work together to

collectively achieve the Goals. That was particularly important for countries that suffered from serious inequalities and the effects of climate change, particularly middle-income countries. ODA and access to concessional financing remained fundamental for such countries.

18. **Mr. Galletti** (Italy), Minister of Environment, Land and Sea Protection, said that the economic crisis of the previous decade had caused the absolute poverty rate in Italy to double. At its peak in 2012, almost 30 per cent of Italians had been at risk of poverty and social exclusion. To address such negative effects, his country had developed various initiatives to fight against poverty, in particular by allocating economic benefits to families and vulnerable persons.

19. Gender equality had been mainstreamed into national policies in a cross-cutting fashion, especially with a view to achieving full gender parity in employment. Universal health-care coverage was viewed as a moral and constitutional obligation, especially in the light of intensified migratory flows. Convinced that good health came from living in a healthy environment, initiatives had been adopted to reduce exposure to environmental risk factors.

20. In terms of sustainable development, his country believed that ensuring prosperity for all would require a new circular economic model that took into account full human potential and accounted for a more responsible use of natural resources.

21. Outlining various environmental programmes developed in relation to Sustainable Development Goal 14, he said that ensuring healthy oceans and seas was a priority for Italy, which was consequently honoured to be hosting the international summit "Water and Climate: Meeting of the Great Rivers of the World" in Rome in October 2017.

22. Cognizant of the fact that solidarity would be essential to help other Member States and partners to achieve the Goals, Italy had reformed its system of development cooperation to include all non-governmental actors and had drafted a new national strategy for sustainable development for the period 2017-2030 aligned with the priorities outlined in the 2030 Agenda. Cooperation at all levels would be essential to achieve sustainable development.

23. **Mr. Majeed** (Maldives), Minister of State for Environment and Energy, said that every Sustainable Development Goal carried significant weight for all nations. Recognizing the importance of the Goals, the Maldives had presented its voluntary national review during the 2017 session of the high-level political forum. The process of preparing a national review had been extremely useful, providing an impetus to take on a challenging task while bringing together governmental bodies to collectively review progress, as well as identify gaps. The national review process had also triggered a long-term development plan that would accelerate much of the country's work in other relevant frameworks.

24. The Maldives had demonstrated its willingness and ability to attain and surpass targets when it had achieved the Millennium Development Goals. However, the country faced intrinsic challenges such as geographic remoteness and insularity, as well as the detrimental impact of climate change. Moreover, it had limited resources and capacity to achieve the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals. Consequently, further progress would require significant support from development partners and the international community, including through South-South cooperation and partnerships aligned with the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway.

25. Support and capacity-building were required in several areas, including data collection and measurement, in order to obtain more accurate information and bring methodologies into line with the Sustainable Development Goal indicators. As the country's national review had generated momentum towards achieving the Goals, other States were urged to participate in that helpful process.

26. **Mr. Jayawickrama** Perera (Sri Lanka), Minister of Sustainable Development and Wildlife, said that the President of Sri Lanka had declared 2017 as the Year for Poverty Eradication, believing that eradicating poverty in all its forms across the nation was a prerequisite for a truly transformative era of sustainable development. With a view to becoming a high-income country, Sri Lanka had centred its national economic strategies on the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 2030 Agenda. A knowledge-based social market economy built on social justice principles was being fostered with a focus on education, health, mobility and other key sectors. Strategies had been implemented to sustainably unlock the value of ocean resources and eliminate poisonous substances. More generally, Parliament had adopted a national sustainable development act to formulate policies and monitor the accomplishment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

27. By the end of 2017, the country planned to roll out a long-term sustainability vision, a national policy and strategy on sustainable development, a road map

on achieving the Goals, and a monitoring, evaluation and reporting mechanism defined by a national indicator and statistical framework. Sri Lanka would be in an ideal position to present its voluntary national review at the high-level political forum in 2018. The country would also host the fifth International Conference on Cities, People and Places in October 2017.

28. **Mr. Hikamatullozoda** (Tajikistan), Minister of Economic Development and Trade, said that the high-level political forum was the main mechanism within the United Nations system to monitor the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals; it was a good platform for exchanging best practices among Member States and other stakeholders. Although much progress had been made in regard to poverty eradication, more than 767 million people remained in extreme poverty worldwide, and many of those who had escaped poverty were still in danger of falling back into it. The problems of growing inequality and a lack of access to quality education and basic medical insurance only aggravated that situation.

29. Over the past 15 years, Tajikistan had enjoyed significant successes in building a sovereign, democratic, law-based, secular and social State. The adoption of a variety of medium-term strategies had helped to reduce national poverty from 83 to 31 per cent. In 2016, the country had adopted a new development strategy for the period up to 2030 and was in the process of integrating the 2030 Agenda into that national strategy. Tajikistan had also prepared its voluntary national review and would present it later that day during the high-level political forum.

30. Nevertheless, the country's landlocked status, its seasonal lack of electrical energy, and its vulnerability to climate change-induced natural disasters were obstacles negatively impacting its achievement of the Goals. To overcome such challenges, financial resources must be mobilized from all sectors, including private sector investment and increased ODA. His delegation believed that the experiences and information shared during the forum would help with the global implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

31. **Mr. Mulusa** (Zambia), Minister of National Development Planning, said that eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity required innovative, responsive and inclusive approaches to development that left no one behind. Special attention must be paid to developing countries and countries in special situations where the world's poorest could be found. Hunger, poor health, gender inequality and social exclusion remained daunting challenges in many countries, including Zambia. It was necessary to build bilateral and multilateral partnerships between developing and developed countries to benefit the areas where development inadequacies were pervasive.

32. As a way of incorporating the 2030 Agenda into its national plans, Zambia had recently launched a national development plan for the period 2017-2021 that was focused on accelerating development efforts. The plan would be supported by enhanced frameworks for statistical monitoring and evaluation capacities, coupled with coordinated and diversified resource mobilization and partnerships.

33. Related measures included providing social assistance to vulnerable groups, reforming input delivery and distribution systems through an e-voucher system, enhancing productivity and technology development, and implementing programmes on farming, irrigation and early warning systems. Comprehensive legislative and policy frameworks had also been put in place to deal with various forms of discrimination, including violence against women and children.

34. Lastly, significant progress had been made in reducing child and maternal mortality as well as diseases, both communicable and non-communicable. However, non-communicable diseases and cervical cancer in particular continued to be a challenge.

35. **Mr. Belay** (Ethiopia), Minister of the National Planning Commission, said that although global poverty had been halved since 2000, an enhanced and revitalized global partnership would be necessary to fully eradicate poverty and achieve prosperity. The world faced multiple political, economic and environmental challenges that hindered the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and other relevant instruments. Ethiopia welcomed the draft ministerial declaration of the high-level political forum and hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

36. With a view to becoming a lower-middle-income country by 2025, Ethiopia had made considerable progress in economic growth, infrastructure, social development and environmental management over the previous 15 years. It had implemented pro-poor and pro-growth development policies that involved all development stakeholders, including persons with disabilities. Ethiopia had consequently achieved most of the Millennium Development Goals: it had halved poverty, significantly increased per capita income, improved social development, increased infrastructure connectivity and transformed its economy, seeing a rise in FDI. The country's significant progress had been underpinned by rapid, broad and sustained economic

growth, making Ethiopia one of the fastest growing economies in the world.

37. Ethiopia had been the beneficiary of both North-South and South-South cooperation; its experience was consequently a good illustration of how those forms of cooperation could be complementary. However, poverty, climate change-induced drought, deficits and challenges in good governance and a weak export sector remained the country's principal development challenges. In order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, Ethiopia would need international solidarity and global partnerships. Through effective multilateralism, the international community must translate its commitments to the 2030 Agenda and other relevant instruments into action by providing nationally aligned financial and technological support to developing countries and least developed countries in particular.

38. **Mr. Tsogwane** (Botswana), Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, said that the right to development was a right for all. No one should be left behind in the pursuit of sustainable development. The adoption of the 2030 Agenda had raised expectations with regard to the challenges of sluggish economic growth, economic diversification, poverty, job creation, and the empowerment of women and young people.

39. Encouraging progress had been made but the international community still needed to address the needs of millions living in abject poverty. For them, the right to development remained a dream. Urgent action was therefore required, especially to unlock the means of implementation mentioned in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

40. His country had mainstreamed the Sustainable Development Goals into its eleventh National Development Plan and Vision 2036. Its empowerment programmes were inclusive of all the vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in society. Structures and mechanisms were in place to review, monitor and evaluate the implementation of those programmes. As a result, it had been found that there was a need for mechanisms to facilitate synergy, information sharing and coordination between entities in order to avoid a counterproductive silo approach.

41. Botswana was among the 44 countries that would share their experience of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as part of the voluntary national review process, based on comprehensive consultations and awareness-raising workshops involving stakeholders at the district and national levels. His Government had found that sustainable development required a people-centred, democratic, transparent and inclusive approach.

42. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda would also require public-private partnerships and partnerships with civil society and the United Nations system. Such partnerships required reliable statistical data, which in turn required national statistical offices with a strengthened institutional and technical capacity. Statistics Botswana, the national statistics body, had been effective in providing reliable data in support of the national development planning process, and had been co-opted by the United Nations Statistical Commission to help develop the indicator framework for the 2030 Agenda.

43. **Mr. Dahlan** (Malaysia), Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, said that his country's development agenda had always been people-focused and aligned with the aspirations of the Sustainable Development Goals. The theme of the Eleventh Malaysia Plan, 2016-2020 was "anchoring growth on people". The Plan continued the Government's focus on balancing the needs of the people economy and the capital economy. Its six strategic thrusts, which mirrored the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, involved enhancing inclusiveness; improving well-being for all; accelerating human capital development; pursuing green growth; strengthening infrastructure; and re-engineering economic growth.

44. His Government had taken steps to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in the national context. A governance structure had been established in 2016 to monitor and report on the Goals, and a national roadmap was being finalized and would be the main reference for achieving the Goals in Malaysia.

45. Malaysia was one of the few countries that had rapidly achieved the Millennium Development Goals by halving poverty from 16.5 per cent in 1990 to 8.5 per cent in 2000. By 2014, the incidence of poverty had dropped to 0.6 per cent. The number of people living below the food poverty line amounted to only 0.2 per cent. Those advances had been achieved by providing access to education and skills development for all sectors of society, creating employment, supporting entrepreneurship, facilitating participation in unit trusts and investment schemes, and providing basic infrastructure. The measurement of poverty had now been expanded beyond income through a Malaysian version of the Multidimensional Poverty Index that took account of other dimensions of poverty such as education, health and quality of life.

46. His country would seek to double the mean monthly income of the bottom 40 per cent of

households by 2020 by enhancing their access to education, increasing their productivity through information and communications technology, promoting social-based enterprises and attracting investment to rural and low-income areas.

47. Women had an important role to play in community and economic development. The national policy on women guaranteed equal status and the same fundamental rights as men, as enshrined in the Constitution. A plan of action for the advancement of women would operationalize that policy and further integrate women into development while raising their social status. Malaysia had made significant progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in partnership with non-governmental and civil society organizations.

48. **Mr. Abela** (Malta), Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion, said that images of war, poverty and disease could easily lead to pessimism about sustainable development, but it was also easy to forget how much good was being done on a daily basis because development did not make headlines. Inequality and instability persisted, and millions had been forced to flee armed conflict, but there was reason to be optimistic as the world came together to fight poverty in unprecedented ways.

49. During the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union, real progress had been made on a range of development issues. Along with other States members of the European Union, Malta had worked towards the adoption of a new European Consensus on Development that reflected the global development agenda and represented a shared vision and plan of action for the eradication of poverty. The Consensus reflected the commitments made in 2015 and 2016, and provided all States members of the European Union with a single development policy. At the core of the Consensus were a number of cross-cutting issues that could create synergies between the Sustainable Development Goals and accelerate the transformation of economies and societies. For the first time, young people were at the core of development policy owing to their potential to drive innovation and entrepreneurship. There was also a focus on women and girls, who had the potential to act as change agents.

50. True development required progress in areas including governance, human rights and the rule of law. The high-level political forum was a reminder that a continued focus on development cooperation was needed. In addition to investments in ODA, Governments needed to form new partnerships with global financial institutions and the private sector. The forum, with its central role in the institutional framework of sustainable development, provided an opportunity to share experiences, challenges and lessons learned with the common aim of optimizing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

51. **Mr. Dlamini** (Swaziland), Minister of Economic Planning and Development, said that his country had made progress in aligning its domestic policies with the essential elements required to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

52. In Swaziland, a small, vulnerable and landlocked developing country, the resources needed to accomplish the Goals continued to be a challenge. Regarding Goal 1, the Government had launched several initiatives that prioritized less privileged groups. Social security programmes currently covered orphaned and vulnerable children, children with disabilities and the elderly, among others. Every school-age child had the opportunity to attend school, especially at the primary education level. The main challenge was to sustain those initiatives in spite of the fiscal difficulties facing the country and the difficulty of identifying and targeting beneficiaries.

53. The health of a nation was the basis for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Accordingly, his Government had established a number of programmes to scale up progress towards achieving the Goals. The main challenge was to ensure that the programmes reached all areas. His Government had also prioritized the achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment and a national strategy for combating the abuse of women and girls had been approved in 2016. A number of laws had also been amended to align them with the objectives of gender-related acts and policies and ensure that disadvantaged groups, and women in particular, received equal treatment.

54. To address drought-related challenges, his Government had invested in the construction of earth dams to ensure an adequate supply of water for domestic and agricultural use. The current challenge was the inconsistent availability of water.

55. **Mr. Murad** (Afghanistan), Minister of Economy, said that his country had adopted the Millennium Development Goals almost five years after the Millennium Declaration and after having suffered from decades of conflict. The results of its subsequent socioeconomic development were striking. In 2002, fewer than 900,000 students were enrolled in education and none of them were girls. Currently, that number was 9 million and girls made up 40 per cent of students. Access to health services within two hours'

travel time had risen from 9 per cent to 87 per cent, life expectancy at birth had risen from 42 years to 64 years, and infant mortality had declined from 66 per thousand live births in 2005 to the current figure of 45. Furthermore, women were present at every level of government, parliament, civil society, the private sector and the media. Those achievements were shared by Afghanistan and the international community, which were bound together by a spirit of genuine partnership.

56. The process of nationalizing the Sustainable Development Goals had started with the formation of a national coordination committee consisting of ministers and deputy ministers under the supervision of the Council of Ministers. Following a series of national consultations, conferences and planning workshops involving governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, the national targets and indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals had been incorporated into the national peace and development framework covering security, education, health care, governance, infrastructure, social protection, agricultural and rural development, and the economy. All targets, indicators and baselines had been tailored to the realities of Afghanistan.

57. At the subnational level, a human rights-based implementation plan was being developed to ensure that all people, including vulnerable and marginalized groups, were the focus of his Government's efforts. For that purpose, an executive committee on the Sustainable Development Goals had been established to support and strengthen the Ministry of the Economy as the lead governmental institution responsible for cross-sectoral coordination, localization and alignment. The Afghan people were resilient and the Government was committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and making them part of the national discourse.

58. **Ms. Đukić-Dejanović** (Serbia), Minister without portfolio in charge of population policy/Government, said that the high-level political forum was key to monitoring the fulfilment of the obligations of Member States for the benefit of generations to come. The prevention of climate change was a goal in itself but also cut across all the other Sustainable Development Goals. Serbia had ratified the Paris Agreement in May 2017. Her Government had also established a working group made up of representatives of relevant ministries, offices and agencies to monitor and coordinate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Representatives of civil society, academia and the private sector had also contributed to the work of the group.

59. Voluntary national reviews were very important for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda since they made it possible to exchange experiences, identify best practices and address challenges at all levels. The submission of reports on global sustainable development every four years was also very important and her Government would submit its first report in 2019. The national development priorities for Serbia in the period from 2016 to 2020 were the negotiations on accession to the European Union and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda with the aim of promoting good governance and the rule of law, developing social and human resources, achieving economic development, growth and employment, controlling climate change, building resilient communities and integrating culture into the sustainable development process.

60. After years of multiple challenges, her country was on the road to fiscal stability and dynamic growth followed by comprehensive structural reforms. Growth and development must be sustainable, especially with a view to environmental protection, poverty eradication, gender equality and an end to violence against women and girls. Her Government would prioritize the achievement of peaceful inclusive societies since peace was a prerequisite for development.

61. **Mr. Al-Nabit** (Qatar), Minister of Development Planning and Statistics, said that poverty eradication was a prerequisite for sustainable development. Achieving inclusive socioeconomic growth required mobilizing sufficient resources and establishing effective international partnerships. International cooperation for development should prioritize the poorest and most marginalized. Financing should be approached in a spirit of international solidarity and partnership. In November 2017, Qatar would host a high-level meeting in the run-up to the Council's forum on financing for development follow-up in 2018, and had adopted a policy based on the linkages between national policies and international development trends. The 2030 Agenda had been integrated into the second development strategy for the period from 2017 to 2022.

62. The national vision of Qatar for 2030 identified socioeconomic, human and environmental objectives. Successes had been achieved in such areas as social protection, energy, health, education, infrastructure, environmental protection, international cooperation and partnerships, and development assistance with a focus on human rights. His country was home to nationals of various countries who enjoyed fundamental rights in accordance with the Constitution and participated in development policies and State policies. It had also adopted a preventive policy under

which conditions were conducive to coexistence and the rejection of violence. Annual conferences were held to promote intercultural dialogue.

63. Qatar was facing unilateral measures imposing an illegal land, sea and air embargo. Its response had been to adopt a legal approach based on international law and it was grateful for the assistance of its friends. Those measures would not deter his country from implementing the 2030 Agenda and achieving sustainable development and prosperity for its citizens. According to international indicators, Qatar had achieved significant development and would pursue assistance to the most vulnerable around the world as part of an international partnership. Its efforts to achieve sustainable development would continue to take into account economic, environmental and social factors.

64. **Mr. Zarif** (Islamic Republic of Iran), Minister for Foreign Affairs, said that poverty continued to be the greatest contemporary challenge, a real threat to humankind and a major obstacle to sustainable development. Since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in his country, a strong legal and legislative framework had been created. It provided a solid platform for the planning, implementation and follow-up of national development strategies and policies. Significant achievements had been made in spite of external challenges such as aggression by Iraq and the imposition of sanctions by the United States.

65. Voluntary national reviews were an opportunity to share best practices, experiences and achievements in building a resilient economy, eradicating poverty, guaranteeing social justice and food security, expanding basic services for all, empowering women and girls, promoting technology and innovation, and protecting the environment, natural resources and biodiversity.

66. In the experience of the Islamic Republic of Iran and many other countries, a conducive external environment was important. Developed countries should fulfil their commitments to provide financial resources, transfer technology and build capacity without politicizing those processes. The United Nations had a pivotal role to play in enhancing cooperation at the international and regional levels.

67. West Asia continued to be affected by wars and domestic conflicts that dragged millions into abject poverty, which was one of the consequences and causes of insecurity that therefore needed to be addressed. Foreign occupation, wars and the interventionist policies of external Powers had stripped the citizens of the region not only of wealth and natural resources but also of dignity and freedom. Exploiting the existing despair, terrorists with a Takfirist ideology, supported by outside and regional actors, had infested West Asia and the world and committed unspeakable atrocities. The situations in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen were the worst examples of humanitarian catastrophes. Leaving no one behind, in such miserable conditions, would be a challenge.

68. Development challenges also provided opportunities for cooperation with partners who were willing to address such common and immediate challenges as poverty eradication and environmental protection. His country's policy of constructive engagement had already led to the end of an unnecessary global crisis following the conclusion of a historic nuclear deal, the joint comprehensive plan of action. Such an outstanding success for diplomacy and multilateralism promised new horizons for dialogue, understanding, mutual respect and cooperation in other fields, including at the regional level.

69. **Ms. Ismail** (Egypt), Minister of Social Solidarity, said that, in the two years since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, Member States had prepared implementation strategies, established coordination, follow-up and review mechanisms, and started to measure the progress made. The eradication of poverty remained the greatest challenge and was the touchstone for the Sustainable Development Goals.

70. Egypt had been among the first group of countries that had presented a voluntary national review to the high-level political forum and was currently implementing the four pillars of its national development strategy, namely economic development, social justice, the environment, and knowledge and innovation. Better ways of working together had been found and best practices had been developed across a wide range of country experiences, in recognition of the singular importance of the global partnership for sustainable development, of national ownership, and of leaving no one behind.

71. One challenge was to ensure that the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda were sufficient. There was an urgent need for a transition from billions to trillions in the form of ODA, FDI, public and private resources, and domestic resource mobilization. The growing body of knowledge and experience should be tailored to the specific needs of different countries, and national capacities should be boosted, especially in the areas of budget allocation, data collection and analysis, monitoring and reporting.

72. There was no one-size-fits-all approach to implementing the 2030 Agenda. Various global forums, of which the high-level political forum was the pinnacle, would remain key to sharing experiences and exchanging lessons learned. There should also be sufficient policy space for a tailored approach to implementing the 2030 Agenda. Shared contributions were important since different countries and civil society had an asymmetrical ability to contribute. A results-based approach to national planning efforts should have the full participation of all stakeholders including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), Governments and the private sector.

73. Countries affected by conflict or terrorism sponsored by regimes in the region paid a multidimensional price in the form of poverty and vulnerability as financial resources were diverted and development efforts were undermined. Instead, they needed stability, security and peace to be able to implement the 2030 Agenda.

74. The high-level political forum played an important role as a laboratory for sustainable development and Egypt would remain actively engaged in collective efforts to promote that vision of the 2030 Agenda.

75. **Mr. Molinas** (Paraguay), Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of Technical Planning of Economic and Social Development, said that a broad consultation process had taken place in his country in support of the 2030 Agenda. Social leaders, entrepreneurs, academics, cultural leaders, leaders of NGOs and representatives from all levels of government had expressed their aspirations in a national development plan, 92 per cent of which was aligned with the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. In that context, his country had an innovative and participatory institutional architecture including an inter-institutional commission on the Goals; a national country strategy team advising the executive branch; a result-based budgeting system linking the national budget to the targets of the Goals; a citizen's monitoring board informing citizens of monthly advances towards the social targets; and a project on localizing the Goals through participatory municipal plans and municipal development councils. A joint declaration would soon be signed by all three branches of the State, which would join forces and ratify the commitment to the Goals.

76. The "Paraguay 2030" plan for operationalizing the Goals had three pillars, namely poverty reduction and social development; inclusive economic growth; and the integration of Paraguay into the global economy. It also had four cross-cutting themes: equal opportunities and women's empowerment; efficient and transparent governance; development and land-use planning; and environmental sustainability, including a commitment to the Paris Agreement.

77. **Ms. Sánchez Oviedo** (Costa Rica), Minister of Planning and Economic Policy, said that the comprehensive, universal and multidimensional nature of the Sustainable Development Goals required innovative public policies. It was the responsibility of States and Governments to leave no one behind by building consensus, creating synergies and securing participation and commitment by multiple actors.

78. On 9 September 2016, Costa Rica had become the first country to establish a national pact for the achievement of the Goals. The pact brought together the three branches of government, the business sector, civil society organizations, faith-based organizations, academia, community organizations and local governments. The pact was politically important because it set priorities that transcended governing political circles and promoted accountability; put in place a complex governance system of checks and balances; created spaces for dialogue and accountability; and built trust among actors with different interests and priorities. As a result, the pact had amounted to an unprecedented political advance and turned the Goals into the basis for building a vision for the future.

79. The implementation process had led to the design and use of the Multidimensional Poverty Index as a tool to reorganize social policy and align poverty reduction policy with 14 of the Goals. As a result, measurement instruments had improved, resource allocation was more efficient, intersectoral coordination had been refined and capacities for the monitoring and evaluation of results had been enhanced.

80. The voluntary review had identified advances but also some structural gaps, especially in the areas of employment, innovation, gender equality, infrastructure and taxation. Strategies financed by domestic resource mobilization were being implemented to address those gaps, but international cooperation continued to be a strategic tool for reducing and eliminating structural gaps, especially in middle-income countries. Because the Sustainable Development Goals were designed as both national and global targets, the nature and scope of international development cooperation had to be redimensioned. The Goals symbolized hopes for a more equitable world and a more just society. Only through multilateralism

and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda would the international community find solutions to global problems.

81. **Mr. Rakotomamonjy** (Madagascar), President of the National Assembly, said that the steady decline in ODA was especially threatening for Madagascar because it was reportedly attributable to a decline in support from bilateral partners, decentralized cooperation projects, and international NGOs. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development had declared that Madagascar was one of 51 countries neglected by aid and those countries relied heavily on foreign partnerships to support them in addressing the challenges of sustainable development and poverty eradication.

82. The national development plan of Madagascar included a reform strategy and an investment programme that prioritized employment- and income-generating sectors. Financing for that strategy was announced in the wake of a conference of donors and investors in December 2016, but some of the financial support had not been released. There should also be an equitable distribution of assistance among countries that needed it.

83. His Government was implementing a domestic resource mobilization strategy involving sectoral policies and institutional reforms that promoted savings, stimulated the contributions of the diaspora to development, and boosted investment and public-private partnerships.

84. Given its local challenges of climate change and poverty eradication as well as its economic size and sociopolitical context, Madagascar had had to make greater efforts, beyond what it could afford, to keep up with the global calendar of the 2030 Agenda. The country had taken ownership of the Sustainable Development Goals and had the potential to keep pace with the rest of the world in achieving the expected Goals. However, without partnerships and inclusive support from all global stakeholders, its local and national plans would continue to disappoint. The international community should therefore provide the support needed to translate the common commitments into reality through a combination of the capacities of all parties.

85. **Mr. Timbine** (Mali), First Vice-President of the National Assembly, said that, since 2012, his country had been facing a multidimensional crisis whose root causes were linked to the issues of poverty and development. Given that there could be no lasting peace and stability without development or hope for the future, his Government was working to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 with support from its technical and financial partners in order to implement development projects that would have a rapid impact on the most vulnerable areas of the country. It was also working to provide basic social services and create income-generating opportunities for the population, especially refugees and internally displaced persons returning home. As those projects were important for the stability of Mali, he invited friendly countries and partner international organizations, pursuant to their commitments, to contribute to the effective implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali from the Algiers Process.

86. Furthermore, the Government had developed the Strategic Framework for Economic Recovery and Sustainable Development for the period 2016-2018, which was the medium-term reference point for the design, implementation and monitoring of strategic development policies. The Framework was intended to promote inclusive and sustainable development that would reduce poverty and inequality in a peaceful and united Mali and make it possible to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The Framework was being operationalized by means of a set of priority actions; a performance measurement system based on relevant indicators; and a participatory follow-up and evaluation mechanism. Meanwhile, the "Jigisemejiri" Safety Nets Project, supported by the World Bank Group, provided cash transfers to poor households facing food insecurity. Over 60,000 households had benefited by 30 September 2016 and it was hoped that that number would rise to over 91,000 by the end of 2019.

87. Gender equality was a prerequisite for poverty eradication and prosperity. Accordingly, the National Assembly had adopted an act on promoting gender equality in access to appointed and elected positions. Whereas 8 per cent of councillors were women in 2009, 27.5 per cent of elected officials were women in 2016.

88. Other important measures taken included the national action plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000); unrelenting efforts to combat violence against women, including female genital mutilation and early marriage for girls; and the empowerment of rural women.

89. **Ms. Shchetkina** (Belarus), Deputy Chair of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly, said that the high-level political forum was a unique platform for sharing information and experience concerning the achievement of the Sustainable

Development Goals and that Belarus was committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda. Accordingly, the President of Belarus had established a national coordinator for the Goals who was also in charge of the Sustainable Development Council, which would carry out the vertical and horizontal coordination tasks related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and would set up a mechanism for parliamentary hearings and consultations with a broad range of partners, including civil society.

90. In conjunction with United Nations agencies, her Government was raising public awareness about the Goals, particularly through youth and educational programmes. Having already presented its voluntary national review to the high-level political forum, Belarus looked forward to hearing about the best practices of other countries and regions.

91. In view of the importance of international aid, the United Nations must serve as a clearing house for the provision of such assistance. Indeed, the ambitious Goals would only be achieved with the proper integration and coordination. As a middle-income country, Belarus called in particular for more coordinated development assistance to that category of countries, which still required support for their sustainable development. The United Nations should therefore adopt a specific action plan for middle-income countries, as it had for other categories of developing country, and also draw up criteria that transcended per capita income.

92. Regional entities provided a significant nexus for work at the national and global levels. As an active participant in a range of regional integration processes, Belarus considered that regional processes must be strengthened and harmonized in order to avoid overlaps and ensure complementarity. In that context, broader use should be made of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe to discuss cooperation among regional integration associations. Mutually beneficial cooperation among such associations in Eurasia was extremely important for global political stability and prosperity.

93. Despite their differences, countries must learn to trust each other and to work together for the benefit of their peoples and the planet rather than for political and financial elites. The Goals must not be used as bargaining chips in political games; instead, countries should consistently support each other's efforts to achieve the Goals. Only together would countries be able to deal with the emerging challenges and threats on the path towards achieving the 2030 Agenda.

94. **Mr. Panagariya** (India), Vice Chairperson of the National Institution for Transforming India, said that since the previous meeting of the high-level political forum, his Government had strengthened the national institutional framework for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The National Institution for Transforming India had determined which government ministries and initiatives should address each of the Goals and targets. It had also drafted a plan for accelerating achievement of the country's national development goals, which were reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals. At the state and subregional levels, chief ministers had incorporated the 2030 Agenda into their local development strategies, and the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation had developed a set of national indicators for monitoring progress towards the Goals.

95. As the fastest-growing economy in the world, India had succeeded in halving the number of persons in poverty since 1993, through employment creation and large-scale poverty eradication programmes. Programmes in areas such as housing and food security were helping to rapidly transform the country, and progressive legislation like the Maternity Benefit Programme were contributing to the reduction of gender inequality. His Government's commitment to protecting the environment was evidenced by the intended nationally determined commitments that it had submitted under the Paris Agreement. To mobilize domestic resources the Government had recently introduced a new tax on goods and services. Developed countries must make good on their development support commitments. India was committed to cooperating with other developing countries, particularly in Africa.

96. **Mr. Shrestha** (Nepal), Vice-Chairman of the National Planning Commission, said that in Nepal the 2030 Agenda was underpinned by the rights-based Constitution, which guaranteed rights related to various areas of development, including health, education and the environment. His Government's current development priority was to build on the progress made under the Millennium Development Goals and to focus on fully realizing the Sustainable Development Goals, which had been mainstreamed into its national development agenda. First, however, challenges related to capacity, institutions and resources must be addressed.

97. The path to development for Nepal was beset with structural challenges, such as its landlocked status and vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters. His Government was making every effort to overcome those hurdles, but it would not be able to do

so alone. The 2030 Agenda called for international partnerships to fill gaps in technological capacity and resources. The international community should support the least developed countries and the landlocked developing countries to fully realize their potential by following through on commitments related to means of implementation and by ensuring equitable benefits from international trade and financial systems. All stakeholders needed to support the efforts of countries in special situations in a spirit of solidarity, which was the foundation of the 2030 Agenda.

98. System-wide coherence was needed across the United Nations so that it would be able to deliver as one on the ground. Global efforts and partnerships remained inadequate. Nepal was committed to developing extensive domestic partnerships, but it also hoped to benefit from ODA, meaningful partnerships and technology transfers. The high-level political forum had an important responsibility to guarantee that efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda were sustained, and to maintain political leadership to ensure that no one was left behind.

99. **Mr. Chhieng** (Cambodia), Minister attached to the Prime Minister and Secretary-General of the Cambodian Rehabilitation Development Board, said that with over two decades of growth and poverty reduction, Cambodia was among the countries that had made the most progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. His Government was working to localize and sequence implementation of the global agenda, and was adding its own goal on mine clearance.

100. In order to achieve the Goals, Cambodia needed to reduce poverty and strengthen inclusive growth, including through transformation of the rural economy; increase its competitiveness and develop human resources; and address the challenges posed by migration, urbanization and climate change. All that required stronger institutions and a reduction in inequality and exclusion. The challenges Cambodia faced were important and merited discussion at further high-level meetings.

101. Increased investment was needed to improve monitoring systems and capacities. Better data on the poorest and most vulnerable in society, and on the dynamics of exclusion, were needed to inform policy interventions. A recent assessment of the country's medium-term development finances showed that the bulk of the costs of implementation of the 2030 Agenda could be covered with domestic resources, but that partnerships with development actors were also essential. In that connection, a more dedicated effort to advance the Addis Ababa Action Agenda was required.

102. **Ms. Chazama** (Malawi), Minister of Civic Education and Community Development, said that, as the Human Development Index for Malawi showed, between 1990 and 2015 the quality of life in the country had improved. The President of Malawi had vowed to harness the efforts of all stakeholders to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. To support achievement of the Goals, the President had implemented public sector reforms aimed at improving the efficiency and effectiveness of public service delivery. The three pillars of patriotism, integrity and hard work had underpinned the reforms, and would be the basis of all future development activities undertaken.

103. Her Government had produced a baseline report containing data on 137 indicators to enable progress towards the Goals to be measured. It was in the process of drafting the new Malawi Growth and Development Strategy III, which would replace the current development strategy and would be in effect until 2020. Key performance indicators for the new strategy were being aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.

104. Recognizing that progress towards the Goals required rural poverty reduction, her Government was working to strengthen rural communities economically through cash transfer programmes, the construction of better roads to facilitate the transport of agricultural produce, the provision of cement and iron subsidies to enable poor people to build sturdy and affordable houses, and the granting of subsidies to smallholder farmers. Those actions were carried out in coordination with development partners, NGOs and the private sector.

105. **Mr. Kwieciński** (Poland), Secretary of State at the Ministry of Economic Development, said that in order to achieve sustainable development, the world would need to elaborate integrated solutions based on new models of production and consumption. Although there was no single recipe for success, States and Governments must take the lead by generating incentives for the creation of an innovative and sustainable economy.

106. The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals were a global road map as well as a mechanism for effective cooperation with other countries. Poland had adopted a medium-term strategy for responsible development that was people-centred and designed to ensure that all social groups could enjoy the benefits of economic growth and progress.

High levels of employment, good quality workplaces and expanded entrepreneurship, including in small towns and rural areas, were among the strategy's targets. Such objectives could be achieved through investment, innovation, the harnessing of the digital revolution and the foreign expansion of Polish businesses. The strategy also included measures that would strengthen human and social capital, build adequate transport and communications infrastructures, and work towards the sustainable management of resources. The full implementation of the strategy would reduce social exclusion and poverty, improve quality of life, increase employment and access to health care and enhance education programmes.

107. Poland had created a Sustainable Development Goal partnership in June 2017, which had been joined by almost 50 businesses and organizations. It planned to set up a multi-stakeholder forum for the exchange of information.

108. **Mr. Nguyen** The Phuong (Viet Nam), Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Planning and Investment, said that in May 2017 his Government had issued a National Action Plan for implementing the 2030 Agenda, following extensive consultations with United Nations agencies, international partners and other stakeholders. Having reviewed the 232 indicators established by the United Nations Statistical Commission, his Government had determined that 129 of them were feasible for Viet Nam. The Government was also preparing its voluntary national review for presentation at the 2018 high-level political forum.

109. Although his Government was committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, which were critical in such areas as poverty eradication, social security, environmental protection, climate change mitigation and the promotion of prosperity, implementation posed major challenges: financial resources were insufficient, owing to decreased ODA, and Viet Nam had limited capacity for monitoring and evaluation, especially for managing statistical data. The National Action Plan called for the mobilization of domestic resources and the active participation of all stakeholders. However, in addition to national endeavours, Viet Nam needed financial and non-financial support from external stakeholders, including in the areas of employment, health, education, economic development, the environment, and reduction of inequality in incomes and living conditions.

110. At the global level, successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda depended on maintaining peace and security by upholding international law, intensifying development cooperation among nations, strengthening global partnerships, fostering multi-stakeholder participation and sharing knowledge, experience, technology and finance.

111. **Ms. Edillon** (Philippines), Undersecretary of the National Economic Development Authority, said that the Philippines had been among the first countries to present a voluntary national review in relation to the 2030 Agenda. The Government had taken stock of the lessons learned from the Millennium Development Goals, but a different approach was required for implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which was predicated on sustainable development and leaving no one behind. To achieve that long-term vision, it might be necessary to limit current economic growth in order to prevent adverse social and environmental impacts that would imperil future growth. Furthermore, if no one was to be left behind, people might have to moderate their expectations so that the needs of others could be met.

112. In order to determine the collective long-term aspirations of Filipinos, her Government had convened focus groups and conducted a nationwide survey, whose results had been used to construct a development agenda for the period up to 2040. The agenda was designed to bring about four major changes, namely, the Philippines would have a prosperous, smart and innovative society, people would live long and healthy lives, and there would be a high level of trust. Those goals would underpin the next four medium-term Philippine Development Plans, starting with the current one. All the Sustainable Development Goals were integrated into the current Philippine Development Plan.

113. In future, the high-level political forum should have more balanced reporting by Member States, on the one hand, and by development partners and the United Nations system in particular, on the other. A number of targets in the Sustainable Development Goals required international cooperation, such as Goal 2, which called for increased investment in technology development and plant and livestock gene banks. Development partners might produce a long-term implementation plan to meet the Goals, and provide periodic updates on progress. Moreover, as all the Goals were interlinked, it was necessary to begin systematic work on Goal 17 without delay.

114. **Mr. Savaaphet** (Lao People's Democratic Republic), Vice Minister of the Ministry of Planning and Investment, said that his Government had worked closely with the United Nations country team in adapting the Sustainable Development Goals to

national realities. The country's 2016-2020 socioeconomic development plan had served as the main entry point for integrating Goal targets into national planning. Many of the plan's indicators were linked to Goal indicators, focusing especially on eradicating poverty and hunger, ensuring healthy and productive lives and creating enabling conditions for development. His country had also adopted its own Sustainable Development Goal 18: Lives saved from unexploded ordnances.

115. A number of national initiatives also focused on tackling economic, social and environmental vulnerabilities, which must be overcome in order for the country to graduate from least developed country status. Forging inclusive partnerships was a means to achieve the Goals and to implement the national agenda. His Government was finalizing its indicators and road map for the Goals and was also focusing on awareness-raising, multi-stakeholder partnerships, monitoring and evaluation, reporting and budgeting. The Lao People's Democratic Republic would present its voluntary national review at the 2018 high-level political forum.

116. **Mr. Brun** (Norway), Director of the Section for Development Policy, said that success in achieving the 2030 Agenda would hinge on consistent and accountable follow-up by all stakeholders. Over the last decade, the world had seen a substantial decline in the number of people living in abject poverty, largely owing to the initiative taken by a number of countries to address extreme poverty at the national level.

117. The Sustainable Development Goals advocacy group, co-chaired by the Prime Minister of Norway and the President of Ghana, had been commissioned to strengthen international resolve for global action. The group's work had clearly shown that successful follow-up of the Goals would require ownership, leadership and innovative public-private partnerships, and the 2030 Agenda would unwelcome if the realities on the ground were not taken into consideration in its implementation.

118. Ensuring access to health services, clean energy, education and decent work were obvious routes for reducing poverty, as were decisive actions to combat climate change and pollution, both onshore and offshore. However, in addition, good governance was critical: it was necessary to pursue policies that promoted inclusiveness and equality. Translating the 2030 Agenda into results on the ground required a strong and legitimate multilateral system. In that regard, the report by th Secretary-General entitled "Repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda — Ensuring a Better Future for All" was welcome; his Government looked forward to its follow-up and the issuance of the final report later in 2017.

119. Children, youth and adolescents, the "2030 generation", must be partners in collective efforts if poverty in all its forms was to be eliminated. It was also important to ensure gender equality in all policy areas covered by the 2030 Agenda.

120. The 2030 Agenda was a clarion call that his Government was heeding to address the root causes of poverty, conflict, extremism, migration and climate change.

121. **Ms. Valiente Díaz** (Cuba), Deputy Director of the Multilateral Affairs Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that 38 years on from the address to the General Assembly by the leader of the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro Ruz, the problems he had denounced persisted, and the global situation remained of deep concern. The need for a new development model was clear: the culture of privilege must be replaced by a culture of equality.

122. A genuine global development partnership was essential. New, additional and predictable resources were needed to implement the ambitious 2030 Agenda. Those resources existed: less than half of annual global military spending would fund most of the Sustainable Development Goals.

123. In spite of the embargo that had been imposed on Cuba for almost 60 years, the country had shared its modest resources with other nations, having put in place cooperation projects in 157 countries. Hundreds of thousands of Cuban doctors, health personnel, teachers, sports coaches and other specialists had worked throughout the world in a spirit of solidarity.

124. In order to contribute towards global achievement of the Goals, her Government was establishing a national mechanism that would coordinate the work of institutions, civil society and the private sector. The People's National Assembly had recently approved the foundations of a national plan for economic and social development up to the year 2030, the most debated document in the history of the country. Her Government reaffirmed its commitment to working for a more just, equitable and inclusive world where people were acknowledged as the central element of sustainable development.

125. **Mr. Silberhorn** (Germany), Parliamentary State Secretary, Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, said that global challenges required global responses. The Sustainable Development Goals

would only be achieved multilaterally, through mutual agreement, compromise and the adoption of agreed targets. Germany was therefore using its presidency of the Group of 20 to increase the focus on the 2030 Agenda.

126. Implementation of the 2030 Agenda started at home. Encouragingly, the number of countries reporting on their implementation experiences in 2017 was twice as high as in 2016. In January 2017 his Government had adopted its national sustainability strategy, which contained ambitious goals, including making 60 per cent of energy renewable by 2050.

127. Poverty reduction was taking place alongside sustainable development and climate action. As the Sustainable Development Goals were intrinsically linked, his Government was seeking to act in a holistic way by, inter alia: assisting partner countries with the implementation of their intended nationally determined commitments to the Paris Agreement; seeking to improve the resilience of the world's poorest by providing drought-resistant seeds; helping people to prepare for floods; funding climate-risk insurance programmes; and advocating for better governance, the empowerment of women and investments in education and health. Germany had achieved the 0.7 per cent ODA target for the first time in 2016.

128. Lastly, the private sector was indispensable for the creation of value and jobs, which enabled people to earn a living and be included in prosperity. ODA was not enough, however, and it had never been intended to cover all costs; in Africa alone some $600 billion a year would be needed to implement the 2030 Agenda. Germany had therefore used its presidency of the Group of 20 to form partnerships with African countries, where it was fostering private investment to support employment, particularly in rural areas. It was necessary to take responsibility for people and the planet, with the 2030 Agenda as a guide.

129. **Mr. Gumende** (Mozambique), Permanent Representative of Mozambique to the United Nations, said that in order for the Sustainable Development Goals to be achieved they must be integrated into national planning and budgeting instruments; all stakeholders, including local communities and marginalized groups, must participate in their realization at the national and local levels; accountability mechanisms must be put in place to ensure timely evaluation and monitoring of progress; financial resources must be available; and bilateral and multilateral partnerships, including with the United Nations, must be strengthened.

130. The early consultations that the United Nations had held with his Government regarding the Goals had facilitated the alignment of the national development plan for the period 2015-2019 with the 2030 Agenda. The plan included all 17 Goals and poverty eradication efforts had been improved due to synergies between the plan and the 2030 Agenda, particularly with regard to developing human capital, building resilient economic and social infrastructures, strengthening industrialization, innovation and the sustainable management of natural resources, and promoting employment, especially youth employment.

131. His Government was currently working to define an effective monitoring structure that would include all major stakeholders. The decentralization process that the Government had been strengthening over the past decade, which increased the capacity of local authorities and communities to plan, implement and monitor the national development agenda, would also support the achievement of the Goals. In line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda commitments on financing for development, the Government had established the National Fund for Sustainable Development, which was an instrument for the promotion and financing of programmes and projects that contributed to sustainable development.

132. The work being done on the Sustainable Development Goals by the United Nations country team in Mozambique was commendable. His Government expected the team's role to be further strengthened, in line with the 2016 quadrennial comprehensive policy review.

133. **Mr. Casas** (Spain), Vice-Minister for International Cooperation and for Ibero-America, said that at the national level, public policies were underpinned by the 2030 Agenda. As no actor could implement the ambitious 2030 Agenda in isolation, his Government was working with various ministries of other nations. The autonomous communities and local governments were also involved; their role was to localize implementation. The Government was also collaborating with non-governmental entities, including civil society organizations, private sector actors, universities, trade unions and foundations. Continuous and high-quality dialogue was essential with a view to developing alliances and reaching consensus.

134. In order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals a supra-ministerial authority was needed with the responsibility and capacity for coordination to strengthen policy coherence; the flexibility to involve all actors in a balanced way; and the communicative

capacity to effectively reach society. His Government had therefore appointed a Special Ambassador for the 2030 Agenda, who would be responsible for developing an overarching plan for international cooperation for the next four years, which would cover policy areas that were new for Spain, including migration and development, and security and development.

135. At the international level, his Government would seek to be a committed and innovative partner in the implementation of the European Consensus on Development and the work done by the Group of 20. The 2030 Agenda would be the central theme of the 2018 session of the Ibero-American Community.

136. In 2013, his Government had established the first United Nations fund for the Sustainable Development Goals. Spain was following the voluntary national review process with great interest and was learning from the countries that presented their reviews.

137. Policy coordination meant ensuring that resources were used efficiently and effectively to achieve prosperous, inclusive, sustainable and supportive societies. It was imperative not only to leave no one behind, but also to rescue those who had become marginalized and to provide for future generations.

138. **Mr. Artjoki** (Finland), State Secretary, Ministry of Finance, said that work in four areas must be prioritized. Firstly, as climate change was one of the greatest challenges faced by the global community, and it burdened the poorest most, the Paris Agreement must be implemented without delay. Secondly, it was necessary to empower women and girls by eliminating discriminatory laws and policies, and securing equal, full and universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights. Access to reproductive rights was one of the pillars of his country's development plan, and the previous week his Government had pledged additional support of €21 million to the United Nations Population Fund and international civil society organizations. Thirdly, it was necessary to strengthen economies in an inclusive way that guaranteed decent work for all — in particular, youth unemployment must be tackled. A socially and economically responsible private sector had a vital role to play in job creation, as did private financial flows that supported sustainable development. Lastly, it was necessary to respect the planet, since poor populations were most likely to lose their livelihoods as a consequence of environmental degradation or natural disasters.

139. His Government had made considerable progress since the presentation by Finland of its voluntary national review in 2016. It had prepared a national plan for achieving the Goals, which had been presented to the Parliament in February 2017, and which would be updated every four years. Finland was on track in terms of ensuring accountability, systematic follow-up and review of implementation, and would next report to the high-level political forum in 2020. A youth group for the 2030 Agenda had been created; its role would be to monitor the work of the Government, and its members would act as sustainable development spokespersons in places where young people congregated. Implementation of the 2030 Agenda required the participation of all. Society's Commitment to Sustainable Development was an innovative national tool that enabled individuals, municipalities, companies and organizations to participate in achieving the 2030 Agenda by making and fulfilling individual commitments. To date, over 700 concrete commitments had been made.

140. His delegation looked forward to the adoption of the ministerial declaration that would provide guidance to the United Nations system and to Member States regarding implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

141. Lastly, with regard to Goal 6, on water and sanitation, stakeholders must work to develop more coordinated and impactful global water architecture.

142. **Mr. Muhammad-Bande** (Nigeria), Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations, said that his Government had established a special office for the Sustainable Development Goals. The new office was headed by a Senior Special Assistant to the President, who was responsible for intergovernmental coordination, planning, multi-stakeholder partnerships, resource mobilization, and communication and advocacy related to the Goals. In addition, in order to ensure national buy-in, all 36 state governments and the Federal Capital Territory had the same organizational and institutional structure for accomplishing the Goals. An interministerial committee had been established to ensure inter-agency coordination. In view of the critical role of other stakeholders, the Government had also established a private sector advisory group on the Goals, a development partners' forum on the Goals and a civil society advisory group on the Goals. It had also launched the National Youth Service Corps Champions programme, which was designed to raise awareness of the Goals across Nigeria.

143. The Sustainable Development Goals were vital for his country's development and had therefore been integrated into the national Economic Recovery and Growth Plan 2017-2020. The Plan was intended to support economic diversification by accelerating

investment in infrastructure and human capital and by creating jobs in key sectors. The Government had carried out a needs assessment and policy analysis exercise in order to generate baseline data for public investment planning and implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Poverty, hunger, unemployment and inequality were being addressed in a multisectoral way through the country's Conditional Grants Scheme, along with other poverty eradication initiatives.

144. His Government remained committed to the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. However, illicit financial flows were depriving many developing countries, including Nigeria, of the resources required to achieve the Goals. International cooperation to staunch those flows was therefore needed.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.